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## BOOK DEPARTMENT

A full description of the books received, giving size, price, etc., will be found in the list of "Publications Received" in this issue, or, generally, in a preceding issue of the SCHOOL REVIEW.

The Development of the Athenian Constitution. By GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD, Ph. D., Professor of Greek in Bethany College. [Cornell Studies in Classical Philology, No. IV.] 8vo, pp. 249. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1893.

The author of the above work has undertaken to give a concise account of the development of the Athenian constitution from the Aryan family to the democracy of the age of Perikles. Within the limitations of the space determined upon, the work has been excellently done. Dr. Botsford has gone to the best and latest literature on the subject, and to the original sources in Greek. Although there was not room for anything of importance that was new, the work is not a mere compilation. Independence of judgment is shown, and for the most part the author's judgment is sound. The result is a monograph that clearly constitutes the best introduction that exists in English to a large subject, and a subject of great and increasing interest to all who care for the study of political institutions.

The first chapters take us back to a dim antiquity, about which our information is necessarily of an indirect kind, derived from the study of early Indo-European language, from survivals of primitive usage in modern communities, and from inferences based on later Greek institutions. Here is wide room for speculation; while all the sources indicated are legitimate, they must be drawn upon with caution, and results are to be treated as probable, merely, until something more secure is attainable. The fascination of this kind of enquiry must not lead us to overestimate our conclusions. Dr. Botsford's first four chapters, on the Patriarchal Theory, the Aryan Gens, the Grecian Gens, and the Phratry and Phyle, deal almost wholly with prehistoric conditions; although Homer and Attic traditions furnish some scanty but indubitable facts. The really historical element increases gradually as the Four Ionic Phylae, the Basileia, and the Oligarchy before Draco are passed in review. In Chapter VIII, on the Draconian Timocracy, a little firmer footing is reached, and the remaining chapters cover well-known ground. It is a valuable feature of the work that references are constantly given to other authorities, so that the student using the book as an introduction is directed at once to means of pursuing each branch of the subject further without waste of labor. This is followed up with a tolerably full bibliography, and finally there is a good index.

Naturally in a work covering so large a field, much of which is very imperfectly known, there is not infrequently room for difference of opinion; occasionally it seems to us that a statement is pushed too far, or is clearly erroneous. It is a pity to do anything, even unintentionally, to perpetuate a frequent mistake, as is done in the carelessly worded statement on page 202, "The work of the *Ecclesia* was mainly legislative." The popular assembly never legislated, in the proper sense of the term. But these are minor blemishes. On the whole the book may be cordially recommended to all who would find the more extended and special works in German difficult to use. All teachers of Greek history will find it, particularly the latter half of it, stimulating and helpful.

Thomas Dwight Goodell

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Livy, Books XXI and XXII, with Introduction and Notes, by J. B. GREENOUGH and TRACY PECK. College Series of Latin Authors. Boston: Ginn & Co.

As is stated in the preface, the scope and method of this volume of Livy are the same as those of Professor Greenough's edition of Books I and II in the same series. "The wants of college students have been kept steadily in view, and the chief object of the commentary is to stimulate such students and aid them in forming the habit of reading Latin as Latin, of apprehending thought in the Latin form and sequence, and of entering with intelligent sympathy into the workings of Livy's mind and his conception of his country's history and destiny."

In these days when so many American scholars are occupied in adapting German editions of the classics to the use of their own students, or even in translating them bodily into English, it is gratifying to take up a book which is prepared directly for the use of American students and designed to meet their special needs. In most cases the Latin course in our colleges begins with the reading of Livy, and unfortunately it usually falls to the lot of the freshman instructor to be obliged to initiate his students into the art of reading Latin, to teach them to grasp the meaning of Latin sentences from the original, following the order of the Latin words. He can give little or no time to matters which do not contribute directly to that end.

The plan which the editors of this volume have adopted is therefore a thoroughly good one, and it has been so consistently carried out as to give their book, and the companion edition of Livy I and II, a marked individuality. The reader is constantly reminded of the force of the order of the Latin words, the exact